the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL

23

LGY#917

WELLS
ROMITA JR.
HANNA
MENYZ

SHE'S STILL THERE.

I LEFT HER BEHIND.

NO TIME.

COVER MY TRACKS.

GOTTA MOVE.

SIRENS.

FIRE TRUCKS.

GOTTA MOVE.

NO TIME TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

GET TO THE CITY.

FIND A WAY BACK TO *HER.*

PETER PARKER **HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A *SPIDER*, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED *"SPIDER-SENSE"!* AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Years ago, Spidey stopped the mad mathematician BENJAMIN RABIN's plans to merge himself with the Mayan god WAYEP. Rabin, A.K.A. THE EMISSARY, spent the time since devising the perfect revenge against the wall-crawler. His plan led to Spider-Man and his girlfriend, MARY JANE WATSON, being sent to an alternate dimension to be used as sacrifices for Wayep and to restore the Emissary's status with the god.

While fighting for their lives through a dystopian New York, the pair met the mysterious PAUL, a former student of Rabin's. Together, Peter and Paul were able to create a device that would send one person back home to get help, but before they could use it on MJ, Wayep attacked their safe house. Knowing that if Wayep killed Spider-Man, he would become unstoppable, MJ made the choice to send Peter back to their dimension, killing Wayep in the process, but leaving MJ stranded in the same dimension as the Emissary.

ZEB WELLS
WRITER

JOHN ROMITA JR.
PENCILER

SCOTT HANNA
INKER

MARCIO MENYZ
COLORIST

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

JOHN ROMITA JR., SCOTT HANNA & MARCIO MENYZ
COVER ARTISTS

CHRIS BACHALO; ALEX ROSS [Timeless]
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

KAEDEN McGAHEY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

NICK LOWE
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY
STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO

LEGS GO WOBBLY.

--Guh!!!

BODY'S LIMP.

I'M BEAT-UP.

ALMOST LIKE I JUST FOUGHT A GOD...

RABIN.

MJ'S THERE WITH RABIN.

GOTTA MOVE.

GOTTA...

WHERE AM I?

I WAS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

307

15 NYC

COULDN'T RISK STEALING A CAR.

ALSO, I DON'T KNOW *HOW* TO STEAL A CAR.

DECENT AT STEALING CLOTHES.

I CAN FEEL GUILTY LATER. GOTTA GET HELP.

REED CAN HELP.

CAN'T BELIEVE SPRING TRAINING STARTS TODAY.

SPRING TRAINING?

YEAH, IT'LL GIVE YOUR METS SOME PRACTICE ***SPINNING OUT*** SO THEY CAN ***REALLY*** FALL ON THEIR FACES WHEN IT COUNTS.

NY STEWS

SPRING TRAINING STARTED *LAST WEEK.*

THE DAY I FOUGHT RABIN AT MJ'S.

LET ME SEE THAT PAPER!

WHAT DAY IS IT?

EASY, BUDDY!

BACK OFF!

JUST CHECK YOUR PHONE NEXT TIME, CREEP!

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

UPTOWN.

BUT HE WAS ONLY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A COUPLE OF MONTHS...

...I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THESE BILLS GOT SO HIGH.

YES, I'M *AWARE* HIS TREATMENTS WERE EXPERIMENTAL, BUT SHOULDN'T HIS INSURANCE COVER--

I'LL BRING IT TO *HIS* ATTENTION WHEN HE'S *FULLY RECOVERED*, THANK YOU. FOR NOW YOU'LL BE DEALING WITH--

MAY!

WHAT DAY IS IT?!

WH-WHAT?

PETER!

ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT DAY IS IT?

THURSDAY?

NO, WHEN'S THE LAST TIME WE TALKED?!

Y-YESTERDAY, REMEMBER? YOU AND MJ WERE GOING FOR A WALK.

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE. I WAS GONE FOR A WEEK, MAYBE MORE--

SLOW DOWN, PETER.

YOU'RE SCARING YOUR AUNT.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, NORMAN?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MAY'S APARTMENT?!

I WAS CHECKING TO SEE HOW YOU WERE RECOVERING. IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD DO TO HELP. I THOUGHT--

--CORRECTLY, IT APPEARS--

--REACHING OUT TO YOU DIRECTLY MIGHT UPSET YOU.

STAY AWAY FROM MAY, DO YOU HEAR ME?!

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

GET OUT.

I'D RATHER NOT...

...NOT UNTIL I KNOW YOU'RE OKAY.

CRASH!

I DON'T NEED YOUR KIND OF HELP, NORMAN! STAY AWAY FROM ME! STAY AWAY FROM MAY!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR GAMES!

I'M NOT--

--NOT...

WHAT IS THAT?

PETER. STOP IT. RIGHT NOW.

THIS ISN'T YOU.

MAY. I'M SORRY, I--

I...

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

WAS IN THE OTHER WORLD FOR A WEEK. CAME BACK HOURS LATER.

IF TIME MOVES DIFFERENTLY THERE...

MJ COULD BE--

YOU CAN'T STOP MOVING, PETER.

SWINGING WILL BE FASTER. GRAB A SUIT FROM THE APARTMENT.

DUDE, YOU CAN'T WALK IN LOOKING LIKE THAT AND ACT LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG.

RANDY, I NEVER SAID NOTHING'S WRONG.

GET ACROSS TOWN.

GET TO THE BAXTER BUILDING.

GET TO REED.

NO TIME TO KNOCK.

PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE KNOCKED.

"OKAY, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT."

DUDE.

YOU GOTTA SLOW DOWN.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M TELLING YOU.

I CAN'T.

AN EVIL MATHEMATICIAN TRANSPORTED ME AND MARY JANE TO ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

I WAS GOING TO USE *THAT* DEVICE TO SEND MJ HERE FOR HELP. BUT A GOD SHOWED UP TO SACRIFICE ME AS PART OF SOME WORLD-ENDING RITUAL. BEFORE I COULD STOP HER, MARY JANE SENT ME HOME INSTEAD.

TO SAVE *THAT* WORLD? OR *THIS* WORLD?

I THINK BOTH?

SO WHADDYA NEED FROM US?

YOU CAN LET ME OUT OF THESE RESTRAINTS, FOR STARTERS.

OH, RIGHT. SORRY.

RELEASE INTRUDER AND ADD HIM TO THE SAFE LIST, COMPUTER. HE'S FRIENDLY.

AT ONCE, MR. GRIMM.

WHERE'S REED? I NEED TO GET THAT THING WORKING AGAIN.

ZZZZT

REED AND SUE ARE ON TARNAX. SKRULLS ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THEIR ATMOSPHERE OR SOMETHING.

THEN I NEED HIS LAB.

OH, *ACTUALLY*-- WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LET YOU GO IN THERE.

NOT UNTIL CAP GETS HERE.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

BEN--

WHAT? WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE.

WHAT DOES CAP WANT WITH ME?

COME ON, PETER. THERE WERE TWO MASSIVE EXPLOSIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA. EXTRADIMENSIONAL ORIGINS.

FEDS FOUND A SPIDER-MAN COSTUME. NO ONE IS SAYING YOU *DID* ANYTHING, BUT WE HAVE TO CLEAR SOME THINGS UP BEFORE WE LET YOU LOOSE IN REED'S LAB.

WHAT KIND OF THINGS?

RUN SOME TESTS. MAKE SURE YOU'RE WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE. *OUR* SPIDER-MAN. SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

AND WHAT IF I DON'T *WANT* TO WAIT?

WE'RE, *UH*...

...WE'RE SUPPOSED TO *MAKE* YOU.

I APPRECIATE YOUR HONESTY.

GET BACK HERE, YA BUM!

STUPID. SHOULDN'T HAVE BURIED MY COSTUME.

I WAS A WOUNDED ANIMAL. NOT THINKING.

KEEP MOVING. GET SOME SPACE.

THINK. FIGURE OUT THE FASTEST WAY TO GET BACK TO MJ.

FIND *SOMEONE* WITH A LAB--

HELICOPTERS. FEDS?

WERE THEY WAITING FOR ME?

DO I STOP? EXPLAIN MYSELF? HOW LONG DOES THAT TAKE?

A DAY?

A WEEK?

NO TIME.

DON'T GET CAUGHT.

THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SPIDER-MAN.

SO I GET RID OF SPIDER-MAN.

LOSE THE COSTUME.

DISAPPEAR.

FASTER, PETER.

NO TIME.

KEEP MOVING.

FIND HELP.

DR. STRANGE...

WAIT, IS HE DEAD?

HI, PETER.

TOUGH DAY?

YOU COULD SAY THAT.

I'M HERE TO HELP.

I NEED T'CHALLA'S LAB. OR STARK'S. MAYBE BOTH. AND I NEED THEM ***NOW.***

WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT. BUT I'VE GOT HALF THE F.B.I. TRYING TO DESIGNATE SPIDER-MAN AN ENEMY OF THE STATE.

I'M NOT.

I ***KNOW.*** BUT TWO WMDs WENT OFF ON AMERICAN SOIL. THIS IS A FIRE THAT'S NOT GOING OUT ON ITS OWN.

HELP ME THROW SOME WATER ON IT.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

SUIT UP. WE GO TALK TO THEM. TOGETHER. TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED.

I HAVE THEIR WORD THEY WON'T MAKE A MOVE UNLESS I SAY SO. AND I WON'T SAY SO.

SHOULDN'T TAKE LONGER THAN A DAY TO SQUARE AWAY. MAYBE TWO.

THAT'S DISAPPOINTING.

THOK!

I KNOW THAT LOOK, PETER. YOU'RE A *SOLDIER* GOING THROUGH IT.

LET ME HELP YOU.

I...

...DON'T...

...HAVE...

SLASH

...TIME!

WHA--?

Hhnf!

I CLEARLY UNDERESTIMATED YOUR *FRUSTRATION*...

...PETER?

CAP WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP. AND I--

DOESN'T MATTER. TUNE IT OUT.

THINK.

CAP KNOWS I'M PETER PARKER.

I MAY BE OUT OF PLACES TO HIDE.

NO.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

CRACK

THIS CAN'T POSSIBLY BE GOOD.

DON'T TALK. *LISTEN.*

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP ME?

HELP ME.

TO BE CONTINUED!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

HELLO, WEB-HEADS!

WHEW! Hope you all have coping mechanisms for all of this anxiety! I need to find some sour cream and onion chips. BRB.

Hey, Spidey team,

Just finished issue #18, and I was blown away by Ben becoming "King Chasm." His design is very cool, and I can't wait to see where his and Eve's story goes from here. I love the devotion that both characters have for each other, but I was curious about something. When Eve got her powers from Madelyne, did it change something in her mind to make her more willing to do "evil" things, or is it just because of her pure devotion to Ben and her feeling betrayed by the world that has caused this shift in her? Either way, can't wait to see more in the issues to come. My girlfriend, Dalaney, is a big fan of Eve's and is impatiently waiting for HALLOWS' EVE issue #1 to come out in March.

Cason Jones
Sulphur Springs, Texas

Thanks for writing in, Cason! Glad you dug the Chasm and Hallows' Eve stuff in Dark Web and hope you liked HALLOWS' EVE #1 (ON SALE NOW!). Hi, Dalaney!

Hey, Web-He--*errr*...I mean...Clone-Heads?

So, Dark Web has definitely not been what I expected it to be. Much more humorous than anticipated. But I've actually come to appreciate that about it. Genuinely had a lot of fun reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #18 just now, and I'm excited to see how the team will stick the landing in DARK WEB FINALE.

Speaking of landings and sticking them... I recently saw the new cover solicitations for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23-24, and they look awesome! I can't wait to finally see what happened "six months" ago in all its glory!

But most importantly, I'm looking forward to seeing more of Bug, the true star of the show. (Who came up with that name, BTW?) I've never been more enamored by a Spider-Bot. I love how it keeps sacrificing itself for Peter. (First in Slott and Bagley's SPIDER-MAN #1, and then in Zeb and JRJR's AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #13.)

Well, that's all from me. Until next time, keep on...web-whanging?

Sincerely,
Clone Carlos (23)
Somewhere in Limbo

I hope you made it back from Limbo safely, Carlos. It's rough out there! Glad you liked how funny ASM #15-18 were--I loved it too. Hope you're liking this slew of answers to long-boiling questions! Lastly, BUG IS AWESOME! He's a big part of this year's FCBD story too, thanks to Zeb and Patrick Gleason! Ed McGuinness is who came up with Bug's name, and it stuck. We love that little bot too, and there's more coming for our little buddy!

Hello, Team AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

First off, I want to say how much I've been enjoying this recent volume of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. I haven't really read much of Zeb Wells' work, but he really understands the character of Peter Parker and the world that he inhabits. Plus, the recent Dark Web crossover with Goblin Queen and Chasm has been a lot of fun to read as we literally see Hell (or rather Limbo) on Earth. Also, having John Romita JR. returning to work on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN has been incredible, as he's one of my favorite artists of all time. Plus, it's really fantastic seeing Ed McGuinness and Patrick Gleason being brought on to do issues as well. But one question that I've had is one that has been brewing in my head since issue #1: When issue #1 begins, we see Peter in a crater in Pennsylvania before it cuts ahead to six months later. And the next arc that Zeb is doing, following a two-parter by Joe Kelly, is going to address what happened. So my question is, how long has this story of what Peter did been in development?

Thanks, from a Web-Head for life,
Owen Seyler
North Carolina

Thanks for writing, Owen. We've been cooking this story since the summer of 2021, when Zeb and I had a long lunch talking over what he wanted to do on the book. We knew some of the basics then and have filled out the rest over the last couple of years. Some bits and pieces are more recent, but the basic tenets of it go back to that fateful picnic lunch in Astoria Park!

Dear Spider-Office,

I wrote in a few weeks ago to commend your office and the Wells/JRJR team for what I called a "truly special" start to a run. I'm still excited about the future of this title, but I can't help but feel a bit of whiplash after reading the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN chapters of the Dark Web story. Tonally, I was invested in Peter fighting off depression, feeling overwhelmed by life, and wrestling with the role that Norman Osborn has taken in his life. Dark Web was sold as a continuation of that story: character-oriented, "dark," and a meaningful follow-up to the Beyond era that concluded several months ago.

The introduction delivered on that, establishing clear stakes and motivations for the characters while still continuing the threads Wells had established earlier in his run. But then the Ed McGuinness-led issues took a sharp tonal shift into the wacky and silly. I'm not opposed to Spider-Man comics being funny ("The Commuter Cometh" is an all-time favorite), but this shift really undercut the story the rest of the run has been telling. To me, it felt like the title didn't even believe in itself. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #900 felt the same way, but I've accepted that centennial issues have to serve many different interests, including those of casual readers.

I'm not writing to complain, although I'd be lying if I said these issues didn't make me question how this book is being handled. But I'm curious if you might peel back the curtain and let us, the readers, know more about the behind-the-scenes process for Wells and his various collaborators as they manage the biweekly output, the editors who review and guide the content, the artists who collaborate with them, and the marketing team who advertises the stories. I'm sure it would provide much-needed insight to us and help us to understand why the book can sometimes feel like reading multiple different titles at once.

Thanks again for the wonderful stories and consideration.

Keep on thwippin',
Dan Gvozden
(From the *Amazing Spider-Talk* podcast.)

Hey there, Dan! Thanks for writing in again. Great questions, and we only have so much time and space here, but I'll speak to your biggest question, regarding the tone of ASM #15-18 and the whiplash. The buck stops with the editor, me (much to the chagrin of some out there). It's my view that, to paraphrase Walt Whitman, Spider-Man contains multitudes. He's funny, sad, intense, light, dark, etc.... And in our flagship, biweekly Spidey book, it's perfectly all right to go to all kinds of places and tones that play to strengths of the creators working on the books. One of Zeb's strengths that I love is that he's really good at subverting expectations. What he did in Limbo was a great subversion that cracked me up and thrilled me. You expect a hellscape to be really scary and grim, but Zeb breathed life into it, so it was funny AND scary. We also wanted to include Rek-Rap, who was an idea of Ed McGuinness' that Zeb took and ran with. Like you intimate in your letter, the twice-monthly schedule plays a big part of this too. It's more than one or even two artists can do well, and we're blessed with two ALL-TIME GREATS in JRJR and Ed McG! The two of them are our main artistic anchors, and there are going to be arcs where Zeb writes to each of their strengths and delights. Along the way, you've got some more Patrick Gleason as well as a cameo by Kaare Andrews on #25! Ultimately, our goal is to make the most unexpected, heartfelt, butt-kicking comics that will honor what has come before while adding to it. I'll try to keep you on your toes as much as possible, Dan, and am glad you and others are out there doing the same for me.

Dear Spidey-Office,

I have started a subscription with the Dark Web comics, and I love the storyline that has been set up in the past few issues! I'm already addicted to the gripping story and amazing art. I really enjoyed the art on the last page of #16 of ASM during Dark Web, where Peter finds himself in the demon world! Rek-Rap also looked awesome! Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Caden Boelens
Age 11

Thanks for reading, Caden!!! I was about your age when I fell in love with comics, so I'm hoping that this run does it for you!!!

Gotta go!

KEEP THWIPPIN'!

Nick Lowe
2/14/23 (Happy Valentine's Day!)
New York, NY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NEXT: ISSUE #24

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

ZONE